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-- PATENT APPLICATION --  
-- Attorney Docket No. 25,835.11 --

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: M. L. Collins, et al.  
Serial No.: 08/238,080  
Filing Date: May 3, 1994  
Title: TARGET AND BACKGROUND CAPTURE  
METHODS WITH AMPLIFICATION FOR  
AFFINITY ASSAYS  
Art Unit: 1807  
Examiner: Dianne Rees

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING & FACSIMILE RESPONSE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile to: Dianna Rees, et facsimile number (703) 305-7401, and is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date shown below.

LESLIE B. HENSON

(Printed Name)

*Leslie B. Henson*  
(Signature)

May 27, 1997

(Date of Deposit)

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AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

The Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 51-52.

Please amend claims 53-54 as follows:

53. (Amended) A method for amplifying a target polynucleotide contained in a sample medium comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting the sample medium with reagent comprising a first nucleic acid probe which binds to the target to form a probe-target complex;
- (b) contacting the sample medium with a support which binds to the first nucleic acid probe of the probe-target complex;

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